

Breaching the barrier of Pangolin conservation through research, education and community conservation programs in central Nepal



A project progress

Submitted to

The Mohammad Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

Submitted by

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Activities

Radio Interview in Bigyan Prabidhi program, Radio Interview by National Academy of Science & Technology(NAST) through Radio Kantipur, Kathmandu & Radio Kanchan Community FM, Rupandehi

Radio programs can be an effective tool for pangolin conservation, particularly in areas where radio is a primary source of information and entertainment. Pangolin conservation is critical, as all two species of pangolins are severely threatened due to poaching and habitat loss in Nepal.

Radio programs can help raise awareness about the plight of pangolins and the importance of their conservation. They can also provide information about the ecological importance of pangolins, their role in local cultures, and the threats they face.

In addition to raising awareness, radio programs can also help combat illegal trade in pangolins by informing people about the laws and penalties associated with trafficking in pangolins and their products. They can also provide information about alternative livelihoods for those involved in the illegal trade. Keeping these things in mind, we were happy when we were invited to two radio programs to talk about the unique pangolins of the country and spread conservation message across the country.

Radio Kantipur is Nepal's first private FM station, the most listened-to radio station in the capital, with over 80 percent listenership broadcasted through 96.1 MHz and 101.8 MHz. Titled Bigyan Prabidhi (Science and Technology in English) is a radio program dedicated to uplifting and promoting scientific knowledge through radio, the show is supported by the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and aired on 7:30 am every Saturday.



NAST RADIO 2079 11 13.mp3

Kindly please click on the link for pangolin conservation conversation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_DIGR_RpsI



Fig: 1. With presenter Ms. Manchita Aryal, at Radio station of NAST, Nepal

Another radio interview was invited by the Radio Kanchan Community Radio 95.8 MHz from Rupandehi to talk about the conservation issues and threats to the wildlife cats and the rare pangolins in the district. It is a community radio station that is aired to more than 12 local districts, Argakhanchi, Palpa, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi, Parasi, Nawalpur, etc. However, programs can listen through networking with other FM radio stations all over Nepal. It can listen online as well in places of internet access. Kindly please click for the live programs

<https://radiokanchan.com.np/>



Fig: 2. An interview in progress in station of Community Radio Kanchan 94.5 MHz

In a nutshell, we believe that radio programs can be a powerful tool for pangolin conservation, particularly in areas where other forms of media are not widely available or accessible. We strongly believe that the content of the programs, and their reach will definitely raise the willingness of listeners to act on the information provided.

Article write-up in Coalition Wild Voice blog

Coalition WILD is a program of the WILD Foundation, a registered non-profit. Coalition WILD has a 9-year history of producing knowledge and capacity-building initiatives, delivering mentorship programs, and supporting youth-led projects to over 1,500 emerging leaders in 120 countries. Coalition WILD EXCEerator is an intensive 6-month leadership and capacity-building training that equips emerging environmental leaders with the skills necessary to carry out action projects for the planet. Being a fellow of Coalition wild, I have been undertaking courses on capacity-building training. Meanwhile, my article on the birth of the male pangopub during the rescue of trafficked pangolin was published. Kindly please click on the link below to have an article published on wild voices blog.



Fig:3. An Exceleerator fellow

Coalition Wild Voices

https://wild.org/blog/coalitionwild/world-pangolin-day-2023/?fbclid=IwAR0J_WJFGc39QUC5RgI6dlkgALK5UrCJdKVzc-0iUvsvySj5pka9YNstlyQQ

Television interview

An interview was invited by the TV program named Bigyan Prabidhi Television program broadcasted on Nepal Television and the program is produced by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). It was about 20 minutes program, in which we talked about the ecology of pangolins, threats, and the conservation programs in place for its conservation in Nepal.



Fig: 4. A photograph after the interview by Bigyan Prabidhi station, NAST Building

Community workshop in Lalitpur, Sindhuli, Chitwan & Sindhupalchowk

Community workshops are an essential aspect of community development and play a vital role in fostering a sense of community spirit, facilitating dialogue and learning, and empowering individuals and groups to take charge of their lives. In this connection, we organized a daylong workshop in four different districts: Lalitpur, Chitwan, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchowk and Rupandehi joint collaboration with the community forest user groups of Naudhara Community Forest, Chaukot community forest, Amritdhara Community forest and a program for the youths leader n collaboration with the local non-profit organization Sungabha Community Center to commemorate the 12th annual World Pangolin Day 2023 at the ground with ground people who share their homes with the unique and globally endangered pangolins. It offered a platform for sharing knowledge and skills, particularly those that are relevant to the community's needs. It was a first of its kind, thus participants appreciated the program and were told that they learned a new thing, and acquire knowledge. They shared their own limitations and commitment in saving this evolutionarily distinct and globally endangered their forests. We are very hopeful that the interaction will foster the development of social networks and strengthen the sense of community spirit towards the conservation of pangolin and its habitat.

We are happy that our workshops provided a platform to foster dialogue, collaboration, and learning and play a crucial role in promoting Pangolin conservation and enabling members from different backgrounds to work together towards a common goal.

Beautiful glimpses from five different community forest user groups in the office of Naudhara Community Forest User Group, Lalitpur



Fig:5. Workshop in progress and happy faces of members from Community Forest User Groups





Fig: 6. Interaction and discussion with user groups of Chaukot Community Forest, Sindhuli



Fig: 7. Community interaction and follow up meeting with people in Sindhupalchowk district



Fig: 8. Community interaction and education program in Chitwan

Workshop and training with the youth leaders

Training conservation education to youth in a society can be highly effective in promoting environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Young people are more receptive to new ideas, and exposing them to conservation education at an early age can help instill lifelong habits of conservation responsibility and stewardship. When young people learn about the importance of conservation, they can spread this knowledge to their families, friends, and communities, creating a ripple effect that can lead to positive environmental outcomes. Moreover, by educating young people about conservation, we can create a generation of biodiversity advocates who are passionate about protecting the planet.

From our training program, they learn about conservation can help them understand the urgency of these issues and empower them to take action.

In this regard, the training program was conducted to the youths who are actively working as Youth Leaders in the local community organization, named Sungabha Community Conservation Center that is located in Sunghabhachowk, Kanchan Rural Municipality ward 3. We conducted a training on local capacity building training on wildlife ecology that are found in Rupandehi district. However, we focused very specifically on pangolin, its ecology, conservation impediments and the issues of searching and killing of wildlife including pangolins.

We urged for a collective effort the safeguard this elusive and threatened species of Rupandehi district. There were a total of 29 youth leaders who were very keen and gave their compliments for this type of program that was the first of its kind for them. We are in touch with them and these leaders will inform us in case of any encounter of dead and live wildlife.

We believe that our training in conservation education to youth in society promoted and inspired a new generation of environmental leaders for the change.



Fig:9. Training participants during the session in Mahilwar, Lumbini Cultural Municipality, Rupandehi

School awareness program in Chitwan, Sindhuli, Lalitpur

School kids are one of our components while we undertake conservation education and outreach programs. We do this for several reasons which are listed as follows:

Raising awareness: Many people, including adults, are not aware of the importance of pangolin conservation. By teaching school kids about pangolins and their plight, we can raise awareness and encourage them to take action to help protect these animals.

Developing empathy: Learning about the pangolin's unique features, habitat, and the threats they face can help children develop empathy and understanding towards these animals. They can develop a sense of responsibility to protect them and make a difference.

Early education: Children are at an ideal age to learn about conservation and the importance of protecting endangered species. They are more likely to grow up with an awareness of conservation issues and become advocates for the environment and endangered species.

Future conservation efforts: By teaching children about pangolin conservation, we are equipping them with the knowledge and skills to be future conservationists. They will be able to apply what they learned to make more informed decisions about conservation issues in the future.

In conclusion, teaching school kids about pangolin conservation is essential to raise awareness, develop empathy, provide early education, and encourage future conservation efforts.



Fig:10. With school kids after the program in different schools of Chitwan



Fig: 11. Pangolin education awareness program in government schools, Sindhuli



Fig: 12. With school students of Gyanoudhaya School, Khokana & Setipakha, Lalitpur

Production of educational materials

We produced different colored print educational kits such as flexes, banners, stickers, caps etc that were freely distributed to women, students, community forest user groups, youth leaders. Color-printed materials brought several benefits while we conduct community interaction, workshops, and teaching school kids and teachers and help in delivering enhanced learning experiences.

Therefore as always, we produced 200 stickers, 100 caps, and 10 informative flexes to mark the 12th World Pangolin Day 2023. These materials have fascinated and better-captured attention and helped in increasing their memory retention better than verbal or text.

We pasted pangolin conservation banners in public areas such as open areas, colleges, tea shops to increase people's knowledge about pangolins and motivate them to take action to monitor and protect the critically endangered mammal in the district. We hope that visitors walking in the open areas, or waiting for the bus at the bus stand will be exposed to educational materials and will be more likely to engage in pangolin-friendly behaviors, such as reporting the trapping or killing of the species in the area to the local forest and security offices.



Fig: 13. Pangolin conservation banners at different places & sample of pangolin cap

Our activities were covered by the national newspaper in Himal Press, also our pangolin conservation documentary was aired by Paryawaran Television, a community television dedicated solely on environment conservation. Kindly please click on the below link for news.

https://himalpress.com/2023/02/34948/?fbclid=IwAR2fETs3_qUBO-HICuGgjBLPLGfGhpRbvQSTauH9N85lehHw0qNRu4uuJMs

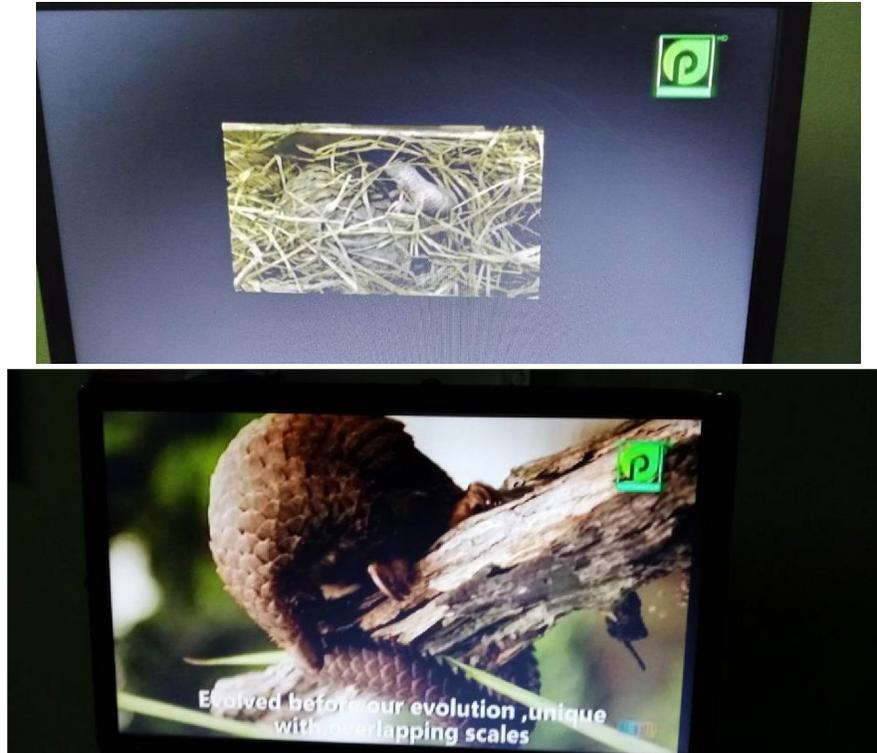


Fig: 14. Pangolin conservation education documentary aired by Paryawaran TV

Moreover, we promoted pangolin conservation through our previously produced pangolin folklore. Please click below for the folklore.

https://www.google.com/search?q=pangolin+song+prativa&rlz=1C1GCEB_enNP1011NP1011&oq=pangolin+song&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j46i512j35i39j0i512i4j0i22i30i625j0i22i30j0i390.7003j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:ac392ac3,vid:dLh-X-a2K_E

Conservation threats to pangolin- Forest fire



Fig: 15. Human induced forest fire flames in two different areas as seen from the home we stayed in Sindhuli

Forest fires can have a significant impact on pangolins, which are unique and vulnerable mammals that are native to the forests of Nepal.

Firstly, forest fires can destroy the natural habitat of pangolins, leaving them with no place to go. Pangolins rely on forests for their food and shelter, and the loss of their habitat can make it difficult for them to survive. In addition, forest fires can destroy the burrows and tree hollows that pangolins use for shelter, which can expose them to predators and other threats.

Secondly, forest fires can have a direct impact on the health of pangolins. Smoke inhalation can cause respiratory problems and even death in animals, and the heat from the fire can cause burns and dehydration. Pangolins may also be injured while trying to escape from the fire, and may become more vulnerable to predators or hunters who take advantage of the chaos caused by the fire.

Finally, forest fires can disrupt the food chain and ecosystem of the forest, which can indirectly impact pangolins. For example, the loss of vegetation can reduce the availability of insects and other prey that pangolins depend on for their survival.

In a summary, forest fires can have a significant and negative impact on the population of pangolins, which are already threatened by habitat loss, hunting, and trafficking. It is important to take measures to prevent forest fires and to protect the natural habitat of pangolins and other wildlife.

Annex I: Community participants from Chaukot community user groups in Neure village

S.N	Name	Address
1	Purna Pandey	Kauslartar -4
2	Netra Dahal	Kauslartar -4
3	Nawaraj Sherpa	Dewantar -6
4	Nawaraj Gole	Dewantar -6
5	Momraj Shenhtan	Dewantar -6
6	Min-Bahadur Lama	Dewantar -6
7	Pasang Lama	Dewantar -6
8	Ram Kumar Shengton	Dewantar -6
9	Pumtu Maya Shengton	Dewantar -6
10	Mimali Shengton	Dewantar -6
11	Birumaya Shengton	Dewantar -6
12	Tej B Gole	Dewantar -6
13	Pancha lal Shengton	Dewantar -6
14	Chet B Khadka	Dewantar -6
15	Dhan B Khadka	Dewantar -6
16	Minala Shengton	Dewantar -6
17	Sansar Singh Gole	Dewantar -6

18	Abhi man Galang	Dewantar -6
19	Sunita Shengton	Dewantar -6
20	Talak B Gole	Dewantar -6
21	Sonam Singh	Dewantar -6
22	Sita Khadka	Dewantar -6
23	Bhakta Shengton	Dewantar -6
24	Prativa Kaspal	Women for Conservation
25	Binika Mathya	Women for Conservation
26	Tika Ram Shrestha	School Sindhuli

Annex II: Community participants from community user groups of Amritdhara Community Forest

S.N.	NAME	ADRESS
1	Rita Malla	Raptinagarpalika
2	Junkiri Bhatta	Raptinagarpalika
3	Devmaya Magar	Raptinagarpalika
4	Bal Kumari Hamale	Raptinagarpalika
5	Ikhari Prasai	Raptinagarpalika
6	Narisha Punn	Raptinagarpalika
7	Upa Pun	Raptinagarpalika
8	Ladmi Malla	Raptinagarpalika
9	Rekha Pun	Raptinagarpalika
10	Aasha Aarli	Raptinagarpalika
11	Surya Malla	Raptinagarpalika
12	Shanti Malla	Raptinagarpalika
13	Madan Panta	Raptinagarpalika
14	Shyam Sherpa	Raptinagarpalika
15	Shova Giri	Raptinagarpalika
16	Ghyan Kumar Giri	Raptinagarpalika
17	Lokesh Tamang	Raptinagarpalika
18	Bijaya Dhaubajar	Women for Conservation
19	Prativa kaspal	Women for Conservation

Annex: III: Youth participants during training program at Lumbini Cultural Municipality, Rupandehi district

S.N	Name	Address	Designation
1	Amrita Thapa	Kanchan Rural Municipality,4, Rupandehi	President, Sungabha Community center

2	Tara B. Kaucha	Kanchan Rural Municipality,4, Rupandehi	Monitoring Coordinator, Sungabha Community Center
3	Gopal B. K.C	Kanchan Rural Municipality,4, Rupandehi	Program Director
4	Jugesh Chai	Lumbini Culrural Municipality-12	Treasurer ward
5	Shila Harijan	Lumbini Culrural Municipality-11	Treasurer ward. Sathi Sanjal
6	Sanoj Gupta	Karmahawa Sathi Sanjal	Member
7	Shyam kumar Yadav	Lumbini Cultural Municipality-11	Secetary Sathi Sanjal
8	Rita Lohar	Lumbini Cultural Municipality-5	Member Sathi Sanjal
9	Sajit Misra	Sudhodhhan Ruralmunicipality-7	President, Sathi Sanjal
10	Ram Kumari Chaudhary	Sudhodhhan Ruralmunicipality-5	Ward president, Sathi sanjal
11	Pushpa Tharu	Sudhodhhan Ruralmunicipality-2	Ward president, Sathi sanjal
12	Sujana Lodh	Sudhodhhan Ruralmunicipality-1	sathi sanjal
13	Sunita Harijan	Sudhodhhan Ruralmunicipality-1	Belawa Sathi Sanjal
14	Rangkala Harijan	Gaidahawa-7, Piparhara	Suryapura Sathi Sanjal
15	Sarita Kumari Harijan	Gaidahawa-7, Piparhara	Bishnupura Sathi Sanjal
16	Shagam Kumari Misra	Gaidahawa-5	Bishnupura Sathi Sanjal
17	Sipal (god) Kanhor	Gaidahawa-3	Sacham Sathi Sanjal
18	Susmita Nepali	Kanchan-1	President. Gajedi Sathi Sanjal
19	Usha sunar	Kanchan-2	Vice-president Gajedi Sathi Samjal
20	Susila Chetri	Kanchan-2	Gaidahawa Santhi Sanjal
21	Babita Chohan	Gaidahawa-3	Vice president Sathi sanjal
22	Samiksha Rana	kanchan-4	President
23	Rachana Biskwokarma	Kanchan-5	Secretary
24	Puja Pariyar	Kanchan-4	Member

25	Shrijana Tharu	Sudhodhan-4	President
26	Bijaya Shrestha	Logistic & arrangement	Women for Conservation
27	Prativa Kaspal	Program Coordinator	Women for Conservation
29	Binita Mathya	Camera	Women for Conservation



Thank you so much!!